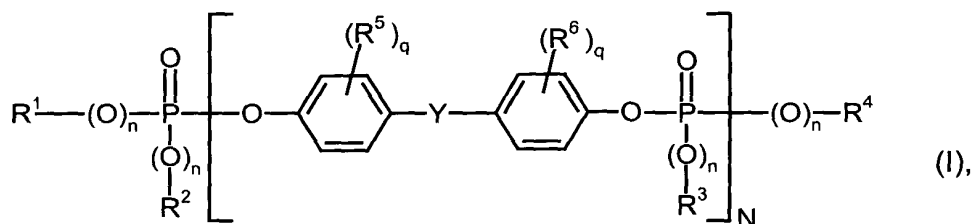


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A polycarbonate composition comprising a phosphorus compound represented by the general formula (I),



in which

$\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are each independently selected from (i)  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_8$  alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, (ii)  $\text{C}_5$  to  $\text{C}_6$  cycloalkyl, (iii)  $\text{C}_6$  to  $\text{C}_{10}$  aryl and (iv)  $\text{C}_7$  to  $\text{C}_{12}$  aralkyl, each of (ii), (iii) and (iv) being optionally and independently substituted by at least one of halogen and  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_4$  alkyl;

$n$  is 0 or 1;

$q$  is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$N$  is 0.1 to 5

$\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  are each independently selected from  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_4$  alkyl and halogen; and

$\text{Y}$  denotes isopropylidene,

- wherein the phosphorous compound represented by general formula (I) comprises less than 1 wt. % of isopropenylphenyl phosphate, based on the weight of said phosphorus compound represented by formula (I).

2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said phosphorous compound represented by general formula (I) comprises less than 0.5 wt. % of isopropylphenyl phosphate, based on the weight of said phosphorus compound represented by general formula (I).

3. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said phosphorous compound represented by general formula (I) comprises less than 0.2 wt. % of isopropylphenyl phosphate, based on the weight of said phosphorus compound represented by general formula (I).

4. The composition of Claim 1, comprising 0.5 to 20 wt. % of said phosphorus compound represented by general formula (I) or a mixture of phosphorus compounds represented by general formula (I), based on the total weight of said composition.

5. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising 0.5 to 60 wt. % of a graft polymer, based on the total weight of said composition.

6. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises:

A) 40 to 99 wt. % of at least one of aromatic polycarbonate and polyester carbonate;

B) 0.5 to 60 wt. % of a graft polymer;

C) 0 to 45 wt. % of at least one thermoplastic polymer selected from the group comprising of vinyl (co)polymers and polyalkylene terephthalates;

D) 0.5 to 20 wt. % of said phosphorus compound represented by general formula (I); and

E) 0 to 5 wt. % of a fluorinated polyolefin,

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wherein the weight percents of A), B), C), D) and E) are each based on the total weight of said composition.

7. The composition of Claim 6 wherein said graft polymer B) is prepared from:

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B.1 5 to 95 wt. % of at least one vinyl monomer; and

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B.2 95 to 5 wt. % of at least one graft base having a glass transition temperature of less than 10°C,  
the weight percents of B.1 and B.2 being based on the total weight of B.1 and B.2.

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8. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said vinyl monomer B.1 comprises a mixture of,

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B.1.1 a first vinyl monomer selected from at least one of styrene,  $\alpha$ -methyl styrene, p-methyl styrene, p-chlorine styrene and (meth) acrylic acid-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)-alkyl esters, and

B.1.2 a second vinyl monomer selected from at least one of vinyl cyanides, (meth)acrylic acid -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)-alkyl esters and derivatives of unsaturated carboxylic acids; and

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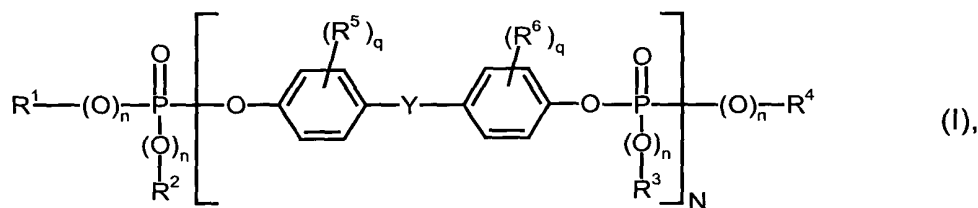
said graft base B.2 is selected from diene rubber, acrylate rubber, EP(D)M rubber and mixtures thereof.

9. The composition of Claim 8 wherein  
 said first vinyl monomer B.1.1 is styrene and said second  
 vinyl monomer B.1.2 is acrylonitrile; and  
 said graft base B.2 is polybutadiene, the polybutadiene  
 optionally comprising up to 30 wt. %, based on the weight of said  
 graft base B.2, of a comonomer selected from styrene, acrylonitrile,  
 methylmethacrylate and mixtures thereof.

10. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one  
 additive selected from stabilisers, pigments, mould release agents, flow  
 auxiliary substances, antistatics, fillers and reinforcing agents.

11. A moulded article prepared from the composition of Claim 1.

12. A method of improving the flame resistance of a composition  
 comprising a thermoplastic polymer selected from at least one of  
 polycarbonate and polyester carbonate, said method comprising  
 incorporating into said composition a phosphorus compound represented  
 by general formula (I),



in which

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are each independently selected from (i) C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub>  
 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, (ii) C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, (iii)  
 C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> aryl and (iv) C<sub>7</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> aralkyl, each of (ii), (iii) and (iv)

being optionally and independently substituted by at least one of halogen and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

n is 0 or 1;

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q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

N is 0.1 to 5

10 R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> independently of one another are each selected from C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl and halogen; and

Y denotes isopropylidene,

15 wherein the phosphorous compound represented by general formula (I) comprises less than 1 wt. % of isopropenylphenyl phosphate, based on the weight of the phosphorous compound represented by general formula (I).

20 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the phosphorus compound represented by general formula (I) comprises less than 0.5 wt. % of isopropenylphenyl phosphate, based on the weight of said phosphorous compound represented by formula (I).

25 14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the phosphorus compound represented by general formula (I) comprises less than 0.2 wt. % of isopropenylphenyl phosphate based on the weight of said phosphorus compound represented by general formula (I).

30 15. The composition of Claim 7 wherein said graft base B.2 has a glass transition temperature of less than 0°C.

16. The composition of Claim 7 wherein said graft base B.2 has a glass transition temperature of less than  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

- 5 17. The composition of Claim 8 wherein the vinyl cyanides, of which said second vinyl monomer B.1.2 may be selected, are selected from at least one of acrylonitrile and methacrylonitrile; and the derivatives of unsaturated carboxylic acids, of which said second vinyl monomer B.1.2 may be selected, are selected from at least one of maleic acid anhydride and N-phenylmaleimide.